



# *Georgia* **courts** **Journal**

A Publication of the Judicial Council of Georgia

## 2010 Legislative Report

August 2010





# Georgia Courts Journal

Administrative Office of the Courts  
244 Washington Street, SW, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Carol W. Hunstein**

*Chief Justice*

**Marla S. Moore**

*Director*

## Courts Journal Staff

**Billie Bolton**

*Assistant Director for  
Communications*

**Ashley G. Stollar**

*Graphic Designer*

## Legislative Team

**Mike Cuccaro**

*Special Assistant to the Director*

**Christopher Causey**

*Project Coordinator,  
Governmental Affairs*

# From the AOC Director

Declining revenues and realignment of leadership in the House and Senate dominated the 2010 session of the Georgia General Assembly. With the resignation of House Speaker Glenn Richardson, Rep. David Ralston of Blue Ridge won election as Speaker bringing a new style of leadership to the House. In the Senate, the chair of the Judiciary Committee was ousted after he opposed a Senate leadership decision supported by the majority caucus.

The Judicial Branch, led by Chief Justice Carol W. Hunstein, acted together to make legislative leaders aware of the necessity of adequate funding for the courts. While some painful cuts were made in areas such as courts automation and judicial education, overall the courts can be proud of successfully heading off the most damaging budget cuts.

The Administrative Office of the Courts legislative team worked diligently in support of the Judicial

Branch, the Judicial Council Policy Committee, and judges from all classes of court in promoting court system programs and budgets. I am pleased to present this summary of court-related legislation for your review.



## Categories

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. General Bills              | 6. Superior Court Clerks |
| 2. Criminal Law and Procedure | 7. State Courts          |
| 3. Traffic Law                | 8. Juvenile Courts       |
| 4. Appellate Courts           | 9. Probate Courts        |
| 5. Superior Courts            | 10. Magistrate Courts    |

Entries give the bill number and title, Georgia statute(s) and brief summary. This issue presents House and Senate actions through April 29, 2010, the fortieth and final legislative day.

## GENERAL BILLS

**HB 540 Elections; Court Registrars**  
**OCGA §§ 21-2-2, -90, -92, -98, -101, -171, -212, and others**  
 Provides that the superior court judge is no longer required to appoint county registrars quadrennially. The first new grand jury of 2013, will submit twice as many electors as the number the judge would like to appoint. The judge will appoint two registrars to serve two-year terms and no more than three registrars to serve four-year terms.  
 Effective Date: June 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 6/3/2010

**HB 567 Crime Victims' Bill of Rights: Revise**  
**OCGA §§ 17-17-1, -3, -5, -5.1, and others**  
 Expands provisions relative to victims' participation in the court system in juvenile and state courts; permits a victim to address the juvenile court and present any information as to the

impact of the allegedly delinquent act upon the victim; victim may be present and be heard at the dispositional hearing.

A victim shall not be excluded from any portion of any hearing, trial, or proceeding based solely on the fact that such person is subpoenaed to testify. A victim who has been subpoenaed to testify shall be exempt from sequestration.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/20/2010

**HB 858 County law libraries: funding**  
**OCGA §§ 36-15-7, 36-15-11**  
 Raises the population threshold, whereby law library funds go into the general county treasury, from 700,000 to 950,000.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2012  
 Signed by Governor 5/28/2010



**GENERAL BILLS** continued

**HB 947 FY10 Supplemental Appropriations**  
Provides funds for judicial branch agencies in the following amounts: Georgia Appellate Resource Center: \$551,000; Office of Dispute Resolution: \$61,913; Institute of Continuing Judicial Education: \$946,894; Judicial Qualifications Commission: \$348,331; Judicial Council: \$11,133,820

**HB 948 FY11 General Appropriations**  
Provides funds for judicial branch agencies in the following amounts: Georgia Appellate Resource Center: \$565,500; Office of Dispute Resolution: \$65,013; Institute of Continuing Judicial Education: \$507,072; Judicial Qualifications Commission: \$251,749; Judicial Council: \$10,607,483.

**HB 1055 Judicial Operations Fund Fee**  
OCGA § 15-6-77; 15-9-60; 15-10-80, -81, -82; 15-16-21; 15-21A-6.1, -6.2  
Establishes that in addition to all other legal costs, there shall be charged to the filing party and collected by the clerk an additional filing fee of \$125, to be known as the judicial operations fund fee, in each civil action or case filed in the superior and state courts.  
Municipalities, counties, and political subdivisions are exempted from paying the fee. Each clerk shall collect the fees and the money is to be paid over to the authority.  
Effective Date: May 12, 2010  
Signed by the Governor 5/12/2010

**SB 491 Certified Court Process Servers: Regulate**  
OCGA §§ 9-10-91; 9-11-4, -4.1  
1. Creates the profession of certified process server. Certified process servers will be entitled to serve process for any court within the state, provided that the sheriff of the county in which process is to be served allows the servers to operate.

A person at least 18 years of age who files with a sheriff of any county of this state an application stating that he or she complies with rules and regulations promulgated by the Judicial Council of Georgia shall, absent good cause shown, be certified as a process server. The certification will be effective for three years or until the approval is withdrawn by a superior court judge.

The AOC shall approve mandatory courses

and testing for certification in consultation with the Georgia Sheriffs' Association. The applicant will be required to undergo a criminal background check based on fingerprints and must obtain a commercial surety bond or commercial insurance policy.

2. Clarifies that Georgia courts may exercise personal jurisdiction over nonresidents involved in domestic relation cases if both parties resided in the state at a time preceding the action. Courts may also exercise such jurisdiction over an individual who previously received an order of alimony, child support, etc. from a court of this state if a Georgia resident brings an action to modify that order.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010

Signed by Governor 6/3/2010.

**SB 388 Electronic Publications**  
OCGA §§ 50-18-2, -20, -26, -27, -31, -37  
Allows the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Council of Juvenile Court Judges, and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (along with other agencies) to publish information electronically; Defines "rules compilation" as a compilation of rules applicable in the courts of Georgia. The rules compilation is to be contained in an electronic database that is made accessible to the public through the Internet.

Requires superior court judges and probate court judges to place a written order with the reporter to receive Supreme Court and Court of Appeals reports. Provides the state will distribute electronic volumes of the Georgia Laws in place of softbound volumes.

Effective Date: June 3, 2010

Signed by the Governor 6/3/2010

**SB 389 Dept. of Audits and Accounts: Reporting**  
OCGA § 50-6-32  
Requires the judicial branch to submit accounting information to the Department of Audits and Accounts every fiscal year for publication via searchable website listing all obligations over \$50,000 and each person who received payments of over \$20,000.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010

Signed by the Governor 6/4/2010

**CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE**

- HB 199 Frivolous Warrants**  
**OCGA §17-4-40**  
 Allows judges the discretion to dismiss frivolous warrant applications without having to first notify the person whose arrest is sought.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/20/2010
- HB 329 Probation revocation**  
**OCGA § 42-8-34.1**  
 Defines “felony offense” for purpose of revocation to include misdemeanor offenses committed in other states that would be a felony if they were committed in the State of Georgia. If a probationer violates his probation by committing a felony offense, the court may revoke no more than the lesser of the balance of probation, or the maximum time of the sentence authorized to be imposed for the felony offense.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/20/2010
- HB 571 Sexual offenders; classification; change and enact provisions**  
**OCGA §§ 5-6-35; 16-6-5.1, -22**  
 Requires an application for appeal from decisions of superior courts reviewing a decision of the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board.  
 Provides that, with respect to sexual offenses committed after a certain date, classification shall be by the sentencing court rather than the Sexual Offender Registration Review Board.  
 Provides for gender neutrality as to the offense of incest involving sexual intercourse or sodomy; allows for male to male, female to female intercourse or sodomy to be considered incest.  
 Clarifies the circumstances that qualify as sexual assault against persons in custody, and persons subject to the authority of a supervisor or disciplinary person.  
 Effective Date: May 20, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/20/2010
- HB 889 Recognizance bonds: serious violent felony**  
**OCGA §§ 17-6-1 , -12; 17-12-22**  
 Provides that a person charged with a serious violent felony shall not be released on bail on his or her own recognizance for the purpose of entering any type of pretrial release program; restriction can be lifted by an elected magistrate, state or superior court judge.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/20/2010
- HB 901 Repeat offenders; fourth felony offense**  
**OCGA §17-10-7**  
 Provides that any person with three previous felony convictions who commits a fourth felony, including capital felonies, shall serve the maximum time provided in the sentence by the judge and shall not be eligible for parole until the maximum sentence has been served.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/28/2010
- HB 1002 Crimes against judges and court personnel**  
**OCGA §§ 16-5-21; 16-10-97; 16-11-37, -37.1**  
 Defines “officers of the court” to include judges, attorneys, clerks of court, deputy clerks of court, court reporters, and probation officers. A person convicted of intimidating or injuring a grand or petit juror or court officer, shall be punished by a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or by imprisonment for up to 20 years. A person convicted of disseminating information relating to terroristic acts against a witness or court officer shall be guilty of a felony and punished by imprisonment for 1 to 10 years and/or a fine up to \$100,000.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 6/4/2010
- HB 1015 Street gang terrorism and prevention**  
**OCGA §§ 16-15-2, -3, -4, -7, -9, -10, -11; 17-6-1; 17-10-1**  
 Provides that all sentences imposed for participation in criminal street gang activity shall require the person to have no contact with any other member of a street gang, to participate in no criminal gang activity, and to have no contact with any victim. Authorizes the GBI to establish, develop, manage, and maintain a state-wide criminal street gang database; requires that criminal gang offenses be bailable only before superior court judges.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/20/2010



**CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE** *continued*

**HB 1104 Smash and Grab; Probation Options for Juveniles**  
**OCGA § 15-11-40.1; 15-11-63, -66; 16-7-2; 16-12-1; 16-14-3; 17-10-11**

Defines the offense of smash and grab burglary as the intentional and without authority entering of a retail establishment with the intent to commit theft, in addition to causing more than \$500 of damage without the owner's consent. Smash and grab burglary will be a felony punishable by 2 to 20 years in prison and/or a \$100,000 fine. A second or subsequent conviction will carry a prison term of five to twenty years and/or a fine of \$100,000.00.

Establishes that a person commits the offense of contributing to the delinquency, unruliness, or deprivation of a minor when they knowingly and willfully hire, solicit, engage, contract with, conspire with, encourage, abet, or direct any minor to commit any smash and grab burglary which would constitute a felony if committed by an adult.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010

Signed by Governor 6/3/2010

**HB 1322 Crime Scene Photos: restrict access**  
**OCGA §45-16-27**

Provides that crime scene photographs and video recordings, including photographs and video recordings created or produced by a state or local agency or by a perpetrator or suspect at a crime scene, which depict or describe a deceased person in a state of dismemberment, decapitation, or similar mutilation, where the deceased person's genitalia are exposed, shall not be subject to disclosure.

In the case of closed criminal investigations a superior court may order the disclosure of the photographs or video recordings upon findings in writing that disclosure is in the public interest and outweighs any privacy interest that may be asserted by the deceased person's next of kin.

Effective Date: May 20, 2010

Signed by Governor 5/20/2010

**SB 250 Unlawful disruption of public schools or public school buses**

**OCGA §§ 20-2-751.4, -1181**

Specifies that it is unlawful for any person to knowingly and intentionally, or recklessly disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school, public school bus, or public school bus stop. Any person who commits such offense shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Effective Date: May 27, 2010.

Signed by the Governor 5/27/2010

**SB 313 Grand Juries; oath shall be given to all witnesses**  
**OCGA § 15-12-68**

Clarifies that the oath shall be administered to all witnesses in criminal cases before the grand jury.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Signed by the Governor 6/3/2010

**SB 308 Firearms: carrying and possession**  
**OCGA §§ 10-1-393.5; 12-3-10; 15-9-60; 16-10-51; and others**

Changes provisions regarding the carrying and possession of firearms; provides for overt and covert security features on issued licenses beginning January 1, 2012. The probate courts shall petition the Department of Administrative Services to purchase the equipment and supplies necessary for producing the weapons carry licenses. For both weapons carry license applications and requests for license renewals, the judge of the probate court, shall within five business days following the receipt of the application, direct the law enforcement agency to request a fingerprint based criminal history records check from the Georgia Crime Information Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation; establishes that no person shall carry a weapon without a valid weapons carry license unless they meet certain exceptions. An individual convicted of the offense of carrying a weapon without a weapons carry license shall, on the first offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor. For the second offense within five years, the offender shall be guilty of a felony and shall be imprisoned for not less than two years and not more than five years.

Allows individuals with a gun license to carry a firearm in bars with the permission of the owner, in the vicinity of schools (but not on school property), and in parking lots of airports, universities, courthouses, etc. as long as the gun

## CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE *continued*

is in the car; restricts guns from being taken onto college campuses and in places of worship. Prohibits the carrying of weapons in certain unauthorized locations; provides for penalties. Effective Date: June 8, 2010  
Signed by Governor 6/8/2010

**SB 364**    **Massage Therapist; conviction for sexual offense**  
**OCGA §§ 43-24A-3, -7, -15, -22, -24**  
Provides harsher penalties for individuals or entities practicing or advertising massage therapy without a license. The first violation to be punished as a misdemeanor; the second violation shall be punished as a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature. The third or subsequent violation shall be treated as a felony offense and shall be punished by one to five years imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$25,000, or both.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/24/2010

**SB 397**    **"Blue Alert" System**  
**OCGA § 35-3-191**  
Creates a state-wide "Blue Alert" system administered by the GBI to speed the apprehension of violent criminals who kill or seriously injure law enforcement officers, and to aid in the location of missing law enforcement officers.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by the Governor 5/27/2010

**SB 353**    **Controlled Substances; Schedule I, II, IV, V**  
**OCGA §§ 16-13-25, -26, -28, -29, -71**  
Adds Chlorophenylpiperazine (CPP) to Schedule I, Tapentadol to Schedule II, Fospropofol to Schedule IV, and Lacosamide to Schedule V.  
Effective Date: June 3, 2010.  
Signed by the Governor 6/3/2010

## TRAFFIC LAW

**HB 23**    **Teen Drivers: Prohibit Texting**  
**OCGA §§ 40-5-57; 40-6-241, -241.1**  
Prohibits the use of cell phones and text messaging by individuals under age 18 while operating a motor vehicle punishable by a fine of \$150 and one point against the individual's license. If the operator is involved in an accident at the time of violation, the fine shall be equal to double the amount of the fine imposed initially.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 6/4/2010

**HB 258**    **Driver's license; minor of disabled guardian**  
**OCGA §§ 40-5-22, -24, -64**  
Provides that an individual over the age of 15, who has a parent or guardian who is medically incapable of being licensed to operate a motor vehicle due to physical impairment, may be issued a restricted Class P instruction permit. Any person holding a valid Class C or Class P instructional permit may operate a motor vehicle if accompanied by a disabled parent with no license.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/20/2010

**HB 396**    **Limited Driving Permit**  
**OCGA § 40-5-75**  
Provides that when the holder of a limited driving permit is convicted of violating any state law or local ordinance relating to the movement of vehicles or is convicted of violating the terms of his permit, the court shall require that the permit be surrendered to the court. The court shall forward the permit with a copy of the conviction to the Department of Driver Services within 10 days of the conviction. The department will then revoke the permit.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 6/3/2010

**HB 1231**    **Eluding a Police Officer**  
**OCGA § 40-6-395**  
Provides that any person who commits a violation of operating his or her vehicle in excess of 20 miles an hour above the posted speed limit, or driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicating substances, while fleeing or attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle, shall be guilty of a felony punishable by a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment for not less than one year, nor more than five years, or both.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/20/2010

**TRAFFIC LAW continued**

- SB 6**     **Restricted Driver's Licenses: Suspension**  
**OCGA § 40-5-30**  
 Provides that suspension of a license for violating a restriction is no longer an administrative decision. Upon a conviction of driving on a restricted license, the court may order the department to suspend the person's license for a period not to exceed six months.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 6/3/2010
- SB 360**   **Adult Drivers: prohibit texting**  
**OCGA §§ 40-5-57; 40-6-241, -241.1**  
 Provides that one point be assessed against a driver's license for operating a vehicle while text-messaging; prohibits Class C license holders who are 18 years of age or older from using wireless communication devices to write, send, or read text-based communication while operating a motor vehicle.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 6/4/2010
- SB 458**   **Safety Belts; eliminate certain exceptions**  
**OCGA § 40-8-76.1**  
 Defines the term 'passenger vehicle' to mean every motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles, designed to carry ten passengers or fewer and used for the transportation of people.  
 Effective Date: June 3, 2010.  
 Signed by Governor 6/3/2010

**APPELLATE COURTS**

- HB 323**   **Death penalty cases: Supreme Court**  
**OCGA §§ 17-10-35.1, -37**  
 Extends the period of review for the Supreme Court's consideration of applications for pretrial proceedings in death penalty cases from 20 to 45 days of the date on which the case was received.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/24/2010

Please  
Recycle

**SUPERIOR COURTS**

- HB 1118**   **Child Support Recovery Act: support orders**  
**OCGA §§ 19-11-3, -12, -26, -27, -28, -29**  
 Changes provisions relating to review procedures for IV-D agency support orders and clarifies terms regarding IV-D agency obligors and obligees who provide or receive accident and sickness insurance for children; mandates that all active TANF cases be reviewed every 36 months.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/20/2010
- HB 1140**   **Alcovy, Atlanta, and Brunswick judicial circuits: terms of office**  
 Amends the Act providing for additional judges for the superior courts of the Alcovy, Atlanta, and Brunswick judicial circuits, approved May 12, 2008, so as to change the dates of the terms of office of the initial appointees. The new judgeships shall be appointed by the Governor for a term beginning July 1, 2010, and expiring December 31, 2012.  
 Effective Date: May 28, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/28/2010

**SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS**

- SB 346**     **County Equalization Boards**  
**OCGA § 48-5-311**  
 The clerk of the superior court shall have oversight and supervision of all boards of equalization of the county and hearing officers. The clerk shall maintain the records from the hearings before the board or before hearing officers. The clerk may destroy these records after the deadline to file an appeal to the superior court (30 days from the decision of the board) has expired.  
 Effective Date: January 1, 2011;  
 Section 6 becomes effective June 3, 2010.  
 Signed by Governor 6/3/2010

**STATE COURTS**

- HB 303**     **Child abuse reports: access to records**  
**OCGA § 49-5-41**  
 Authorizes solicitors-general and assistant solicitors-general to have access to child abuse records for official purposes.  
 Effective Date: May 25, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 5/25/2010



**STATE COURTS** continued

- HB 1458 Habersham County, State Court; judge and solicitor be full-time**  
Creates and establishes the State Court of Habersham County and establishes the judge's position as full-time.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 6/2/2010

**JUVENILE COURTS**

- SB 244 Child Placement Terminations**  
**OCGA §§ 15-11-103; 17-7-130; 37-1-6**  
Upon entering an order terminating the parental rights of a parent, a placement may be made only if the court finds that it is in the best interest of the child, and in accordance with the child's court-approved permanency plan.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/20/2010
- SB 299 Zero tolerance policy on weapons in schools;**  
**OCGA §§ 5-11-63; 16-11-127.1**  
Provides principals and school systems with more discretion in handling their school's disciplinary cases, in that certain violations of weapons laws will not automatically become designated felony offenses.  
Effective Date: May 25, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/25/2010

**PROBATE COURTS**

- HB 128 Disabled veterans and blind persons: exemptions**  
**OCGA § 43-12-3**  
Provides that a certificate of eligibility, issued by the judge of the probate court, for an exemption from occupation taxes, administrative fees, and regulatory fees be valid for a period of ten years.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/20/2010
- HB 207 Off-road vehicles: operating restrictions**  
**OCGA §§ 40-7-3, -4, -6; 15-9-30.8**  
Prohibits the use of all terrain vehicles within perennial streams, except when directly crossing the stream. Violators will be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$25.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/20/2010

- SB 131 Georgia Trust Code: Revise**  
**OCGA §§ 53-12-1 et seq.**  
Comprehensively revises provisions relating to trusts, charitable trusts, trustees, and trust investments; also provides that nonprofit corporations and other entities may lawfully act as a fiduciary; modernizes the Georgia Trust Law, allowing tort and restitution judgments limited access to spendthrift trusts.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/28/2010

- SB 461 Wills, Trusts, Estates**  
**OCGA § 53-4-75**  
Provides for judicial construction of wills and trust instruments referring to federal estate and generation-skipping transfer tax laws for testators and settlors dying on or after December 31, 2009, but prior to January 1, 2011.  
Effective Date: May 27, 2010  
Signed by Governor 5/27/2010

**MAGISTRATE COURTS**

- HB 1463 Lee County, Magistrate Court; increase law library fee**  
Authorizes the Magistrate Court of Lee County to charge a sum up to \$5.00, in addition to all other legal costs, in each action or case, either civil or criminal. The funds collected by the Magistrate Court of Lee County shall be paid into the general county treasury of Lee County and shall be used for the lawful purposes of maintaining the Lee County Law Library.  
Effective Date: June 2, 2010  
Signed By Governor 6/2/2010
- SB 277 Magistrate Court of Troup County: provide chief magistrate shall be a full-time position**  
Provides that the chief magistrate of the Magistrate Court of Troup County be a full-time position to receive an annual salary in the amount of \$95,000 paid in equal monthly or bimonthly installments from the funds of the county. The chief magistrate must be an attorney and a member in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia.  
Effective Date: July 1, 2010.  
Signed by Governor 6/4/2010

**MAGISTRATE COURTS** *continued*

- SB 548** Lee County; provide the chief Magistrate shall appoint the clerk of the Magistrate Court  
 Authorizes the chief magistrate of Lee County to appoint a person other than the clerk of the superior court to serve as clerk of the magistrate court of Lee County. The salary of the clerk of the magistrate court shall be fixed by the Lee County Board of Commissioners.  
 Effective Date: June 2, 2010  
 Signed by Governor 6/2/2010

**MUNICIPAL COURTS**

- HB 790** Doraville Municipal Court  
 Revises the qualifications for the office of municipal court judge.  
 Effective Date: January 1, 2011.
- HB 1236** Municipal courts; judges to be attorneys; require  
**OCGA § 36-32-1.1**  
 Requires municipal court judges to be licensed to practice law in the State of Georgia and a member in good standing with the State Bar of Georgia.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010 (Vetoed)
- VETO MESSAGE**  
 HB 1236 requires all municipal court judges to be members of the State Bar of Georgia. Because I believe cities should be able to decide what qualifications their municipal judges should have, I hereby veto HB 1236.
- HB 1451** Varnell, City of; change charter provisions  
 Provides that the municipal court shall be presided over by a chief judge and other part-time, full-time, or stand-by judges as shall be provided by ordinance. No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge on the municipal court unless he or she shall have attained the age of 21 years and be a member of the State Bar of Georgia.  
 Effective Date: July 1, 2010.  
 Signed by Governor 6/2/2010.

## Judicial Council of Georgia Standing Committee on Policy

### 2009 – 2010 Members

*The Standing Committee on Policy reviews legislation and makes recommendations to the Judicial Council.*

Presiding Justice George H. Carley, Chair  
 Supreme Court of Georgia  
 536 State Judicial Building  
 Atlanta, GA 30334  
 404-656-3471  
[carleyg@gasupreme.us](mailto:carleyg@gasupreme.us)

Chief Judge M. Yvette Miller, Vice-Chair  
 Court of Appeals of Georgia  
 47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 501  
 Atlanta, GA 30334  
 404-463-3032  
[millery@gaappeals.us](mailto:millery@gaappeals.us)

Judge Kathlene F. Gosselin  
 President-Elect, Council of Superior Court Judges  
 PO Box 1778  
 Gainesville, GA 30503  
 770-531-6990  
[kgosselin@hallcounty.org](mailto:kgosselin@hallcounty.org)

Judge Ronald E. Ginsberg  
 President, Council of State Court Judges  
 133 Montgomery Street, Room 209  
 Savannah, GA 31401  
 912-652-7556  
[reginsbe@chathamcounty.org](mailto:reginsbe@chathamcounty.org)

Presiding Judge Robert V. Rodatus  
 President, Council of Juvenile Court Judges  
 115 Stone Mountain Street  
 Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
 770-619-6179  
[Robert.rodatus@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:Robert.rodatus@gwinnettcounty.com)

Judge Tammy Brown  
 President, Council of Probate Court Judges  
 30 N. Broad Street  
 Winder, GA 30680  
 770-307-3045  
[tsbrown@barrowga.org](mailto:tsbrown@barrowga.org)

Judge Richard T. Alexander, Jr.  
 President, Council of Magistrate Court Judges  
 75 Langley Drive  
 Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
 770-822-8081  
[rta@actriallawyers.com](mailto:rta@actriallawyers.com)





# Courthouse Spotlight



## State Judicial Building

Located: Atlanta

Built: 1956

Houses: Courtrooms for the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia

*Georgia*  
courts  
**Journal**

Administrative Office of the Courts  
244 Washington Street, SW, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334